shipped as the patron of soldiers. Chu-ko Liang, who survived the other three, was noted for his stratagems and his inventions of military noachines.

In spite of the personal bravery of the three heroes and the skill of Chu-ko Liang, Shu was the first of the three states to disappear. During the lifetime of Chu-ko Liang it seemed to be successful in its wars with Wei, but, some years after the death of that statesman, thanks probably to the incapacity of the successor of Liu Pei, it was conquered by its northeastern rival.

The dynasty of the house of Ts'ao did not long survive the end of Shu. As Ts'ao Ts'ao and his son first dominated and then deposed their titular masters, the last of the Later Han, so in turn their descendants fell under the control of and eventually were displaced by the family of their chief minister. In 265 Ssii-ma Yen, whose father had been premier of Wei, deposed the last of Ts'ao Ts'ao's descendants to bear the title of Emperor and established himself as the first Emperor of a dynasty which he called by the name of Chin (also rornanized Tsin and usually denominated the Western Chin or Tsin to distinguish it from its continuing branch, the Eastern Chin). A few years later, in 280, Ssii-ma Yen succeeded in overthrowing the ruler of Wu. China was now nominally once more reunited under one monarch.

THE CHIN **(OR TSIN) DYNASTY**

Ssu-ma Yen managed to hold most of his domains together during his lifetime, and to his court came envoys—or at least so Chinese historians declare—from Ta Ch'in (the Roman Orient) and from distant portions of Central Asia on the extreme edge and even beyond the widest extension of the Han domains. He is

known to posterity as Wu Ti, or, to distinguish him from the otners under different dynasties who had been given that title, Chin Wu Ti.

Ssii-ma Yen died in A.D. 290 and his descendants soon fell upon evil days. His immediate successor proved incapable of maintaining peace$_3$ but, feeble and mentally incompetent, was largely under the control of a vigorous and unscrupulous wife. Civil strife ensued, chiefly among members of the imperial family. Non-Chinese peoples took advantage of the situation to extend their conquests in Chinese territory. The house of Ssu-ma Yen was